

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

26 July 2016

Report of the Director of Public Health

DERBYSHIRE FOOD FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek Cabinet Member approval to provide a grant of £70,000 to Food for Life in 2016-17, to support the children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing priority within the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2. Information and Analysis:

In March 2016, Cabinet approved a package of measures to prioritise investment of the public health grant in 2016-17, in order to achieve financial balance in line with the cuts to the public health budget. In addition, approval was given for plans for new, non-recurrent investment in prevention interventions, using efficiencies achieved through the prioritisation process, and underspends on contracted activity carried forward under the terms of the public health grant conditions.

The process previously used to prioritise investment in public health commissioned services, and to assess Public Health Resource Fund interventions, was used to assess proposals for the Public Health Prevention Fund. The prioritisation tool was revised to include additional assessment of impact in terms of prevention and measures, to ensure effective evaluation of impact. The agreed threshold for recommending approval for funding was 100 points.

The Food for Life (FFL) proposal was assessed and received a score of 195. FFL is a national evidence-based programme bringing schools and their surrounding communities together around the core ethos of healthy, tasty and sustainable food. The programme is about more than

just food on the plate, the intervention works to change food culture, by considering where food comes from, how it is grown, cooked and experienced, and contributing to a community-wide whole systems change that can impact on education, sustainability, inequalities, communities and health, all of which make a significant contribution to a child's emotional health and wellbeing.

The programme will target a minimum of 20 schools per year and will achieve change within the whole school setting, through policies, practices, standards and invest in sustainable skills and practices.

FFL in Derbyshire builds on a proven programme of work already delivered across the County of Derbyshire successfully over the last three years in Erewash, Chesterfield and Bolsover, with the aim of extending the benefits to target further areas of high multiple deprivation. The programme has demonstrated sustainability, enabling schools to continue progressing through the standards towards Gold. Following initial engagement, schools understand the value of paying for their awards support packages - currently £780 per school for 2-3 years.

The latest independent evaluation portfolio of locally commissioned FFL programmes, such as Derbyshire's, has demonstrated how FFL gives every child the best start in life:

- Pupils in FFL schools were twice as likely to eat five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day as those in comparison schools
- Pupils in FFL schools were about 40% more likely to 'like' or 'really like' school meals, after adjusting for gender, free school meals eligibility and local authority differences'
- Pupils in FFL schools consume approximately a third more fruit and vegetables than those in comparison schools.

Latest research has shown that the social return on investment of FFL commissioned programmes exceeds £4 for every £1 invested.

Additionally, one of the programme's key strengths has been recognised as its ability to work alongside local stakeholders to add value to existing programmes of work.

Delivery of FFL aligns with the academic year commencing in early September. Schools need to be identified prior to the academic year, to enable them to have the optimum amount of time to achieve the award

standard and to commence training and support from the onset of the first term. The FFL process to enable schools to achieve the minimum award standard (bronze) normally takes a full academic year, as it requires significant change to the school's policies/procedures and culture towards food.

Cabinet Member approval needs to be secured by the end of July 2016 to ensure successful implementation of the programme in the 2016-17 academic year, as any delay is likely to result in schools being unable to engage or achieve the required standard by the end of the academic year. The programme is currently delivered by a part-time member of FFL staff, who project manages the programme, provides one to one support to schools, engages the wider local community, Derbyshire-based food networks and groups, plus directly supports all school caterers. Securing Cabinet Member approval by the end of July would enable the continuity of the existing staffing arrangements within FFL.

3. Financial considerations

The total project cost is £70,000, which will be funded via a grant from the Public Health reserve.

4. Social Value considerations

The process used to assess submissions to the panel included assessment of Social Return on Investment of each proposal as part of the efficiency / value for money criterion within the prioritisation tool. This project will impact upon social value through specifically targeting schools in more disadvantaged areas, thereby supporting the development of healthier communities and helping children, young people and families to thrive.

5. Legal considerations

The conditions of the ring-fenced public health grant require the grant to be used to deliver public health outcomes, in line with the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Compliance with the criteria for the public health ring-fenced grant was supported by the process used to assess investment of the Public Health Prevention Fund.

A grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made. As a recipient of the grant, Food for Life are not contractually obliged to deliver the services, although the Council would seek to claw back the grant in appropriate circumstances were there to be significant non-performance.

6. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Background papers:

15 March 2016 Cabinet paper Prioritisation of Public Health Grant Investment

15 July 2014 Cabinet Paper Public Health Resource Fund

8. Key Decision:

No

9. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

10. Officer's Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member approves a grant of £70,000 to Food for Life in 2016-17, to support the children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing priority within the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Maureen Whittaker
Interim Director of Public Health